

The Polish Review



Polish Statement Explains Soviet Relations

The most recent issue of the Polish Fortnightly Review published in London by the Polish Ministry of Information is entirely devoted to the latest phase of Polish-Soviet relations. The concluding remarks of this issue read as follows:

"We don't think it fitting at the moment to go into a discussion of all the reasons for the difficulties which had arisen in Polish-Soviet relations in connection with the fulfillment of the Polish-Soviet agreement of July 30, 1941 as well as with subsequent agreement, but in view of definite tendencies to throw all responsibility for the present unsatisfactory situation on Poland, which do not correspond to the actual facts, it is necessary to mention certain facts: for instance, that the decision to withdraw Polish troops to the Middle East was made, as is quite evident from Mr. Raczynski's statement, by the Soviet Government which notified the British Government of its decision without the Polish Government being advised thereof.

"The tendency to restrict the number of Polish troops in the process of organization in Soviet Russia had already become manifest in October 1941, immediately after the conclusion of the agreement of August 14, 1941, concerning the Polish Army. The Soviets gave as reason for their attitude the difficulties involved in the supplying of arms, equipment and provisions. On November 6, 1941, the Red army command demanded that the Polish army authorities should send back to their places of residence all Polish soldiers above the thirty thousand limit. At that

time the Polish army already numbered forty-four thousand. The reason given for the request in question was the alleged impossibility to provide supplies for so large a number of troops.

"During Premier Sikorski's visit to Moscow in December 1941 a final agreement was reached, fixing the numerical strength of the Polish forces in the USSR at 96,000 men. This agreement was not lived up to in practice, entirely because the Soviet Government didn't carry out the recruitment for the Polish army among all the Polish citizens and confined its action only to some of the areas where Polish citizens lived.

"What is more, the Soviet Government failed to equip the Polish soldiers already assembled with an adequate quantity of arms. The fifth division which Vishinsky mentioned in his press message of May 6th as possessing a full equipment of arms had in fact no anti-aircraft or anti-tank guns, nor even anti-aircraft machine-guns. Also, it suffered from serious deficiencies in equipment and accordingly was not capable of taking part in any military operations.

"It should also be kept in mind that the first evacuation of Polish troops from Russia had to be undertaken as the result of the restriction of the sum of food rations provided by the Soviet Government for the Polish Army to a quantity sufficient for 44,000 men which meant that all above that figure, to wit 30,000, had to be transferred to the Middle East.

"Only after the entire Polish Army in Russia had been transferred to the Middle East did it obtain from the Western Allies

arms and equipment essential for the completion of its military training. Also the problem of relief for Polish citizens deported to the USSR encountered almost from the beginning very great difficulties.

"The Soviet Government's decision arrived at in the summer of 1942 to liquidate Polish relief delegations was one-sided not withstanding the fact that the status of the delegations as well as the entire network of the relief organizations, namely the delegation and men whom the Soviets trusted had been approved by the Soviet Government in December 1941. The network in question operated through 19 delegates of the Polish Embassy and 450 trustees proposed by the various centers of Polish citizens deported to Russia.

"In the autumn of 1942, Romer, the Polish Ambassador to Russia, wishing to maintain the relief organizations proposed to establish in lieu of the former delegations, control commissions to serve as links between the Polish Embassy and the trustees. In December 1942 the Soviet Government expressed its approval of the above suggestions but arbitrarily cancelled said approval in January 1942 while the Polish Ambassador was in London and unable to be in direct contact with the Soviet Government.

"At the same time all Embassy warehouses except the one in Kuibyshev were locked and sealed and the trustees prevented from functioning. Many of them have been put under arrest. The problems of the Polish army and of welfare work among Polish citizens in Russia constitute but a fraction of Poland's grievances.

Thus for instance in its note of January 16, 1943 the Soviet Government sought to deprive all Polish citizens in the USSR of Polish citizenship on the ground of their having ceased to be Polish citizens and become Soviet citizens by virtue of the decree in re-citizenship issued by the Soviet Government on November 29, 1939.

"The point of view in question which patently contradicts, both in letter as well as in spirit, the Polish-Soviet agreement of July 1941 was not set forth by the Soviet Government until one and a half years later. At first Polish citizens confined in Soviet labor camps were released pursuant to the terms of the Polish-Soviet agreement and also as a result of a decree issued by the Presidency of the (Soviet) Supreme Council under date of August 12, 1941.

"It should be noted that the Soviet authorities did not carry out the release of Polish citizens from detention in full, due to which fact the question of their release constitutes the subject of continuous negotiations between the Polish diplomatic representatives in the USSR and the Soviet Government right up to the very moment of the suspension of diplomatic relations.

"Notwithstanding the many difficulties it encountered in its relations with the USSR, the Polish Government which strove throughout the entire period since June 22, 1941 for an understanding in the hope that these difficulties be eliminated for the sake of the best interests of Poland, Russia and the Allies, had not and does not now recede from the fundamental attitude it had adopted on June 23, 1941."

GEN. SIKORSKI ON INSPECTION IN MIDDLE EAST

General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander in Chief, has arrived in Cairo on a tour of inspection of Polish forces in the Middle East. He is accompanied by his daughter, Mme. Lesniowska, an officer in the Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps. There are now more than 150,000 Polish troops "East of Suez," under the command of General Anders, and these include the famous Carpathian Division that covered itself with glory at Tobruk and El Gazala. These troops are now well armed and equipped, and form part of the Tenth British Army, which is expected to play an important part in the forthcoming invasion of the Continent.

POLES RESIST GERMAN PLUNDER, BURN FOOD RECORDS

German authorities in Poland are now extorting even more colossal quotas of foodstuffs from the farming population. Accordingly the situation throughout the country is extremely precarious at the moment just before the harvest, but the Germans have nevertheless fixed the quotas of food products at such levels that farmers are unable to supply them.

In some parts of Poland, for example in eastern foothills of the Carpathians, the situation had become so bad in January that according to the Polish underground press the wretched inhabitants were living on husks and chaff.

Nevertheless the Germans continue their policy of extorting from the Polish population everything which could possibly be used for the provisioning of the German army of occupation, of military transports going to the east front and of the German population on Polish soil.

Severe penalties are inflicted for non-delivery of the allotted quotas, at times even death penalties, not only on individual farmers, but on their entire family and on the head men of the village, while hostages are sometimes taken as a precautionary measure of collective liability.

Every district in Poland has one or more labor camps reserved exclusively for peasants who have failed to deliver their quotas.

In order to make matters harder for the Germans who persist in their policy of plundering the Polish population of their food products, the Directorate of Civilian Resistance issued a special order calling upon the Poles to destroy and burn German records and card indexes of quotas in various villages.

London has just had details in connection with the execution of this order. In the Pulawy District members of the Polish under-

ground movement burned records and indexes of quotas in the majority of local offices in said area.

As a result thereof Germans transferred the records from twenty such local offices and grouped them together in four localities, namely Malenczow, Pulawy, Kurów and Opole. Between May 12th and 13th the records at Lubartow and three neighboring municipalities were burnt. The German police at Lubartow were so frightened by the attack that they barricaded themselves in one wing of the building and made no attempt to hinder Poles, who were armed, in their work of destruction.

On May 15th the records of the village of Michow were burned. The local mayor, a Volksdeutscher, who tried to offer some resistance was killed and so were two German policemen, while two others were wounded. These raids on local offices caused a great alarm among the Germans.

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POLISH WORKERS UNDER THE GERMAN LABOR LAW



THE legal situation of foreign workers in Germany cannot be understood without reference to the conceptions of "racial equality" and "racial affinity" as propounded by the Germans. For, as in other spheres, so in that of labor legislation the German racial theories have been applied to the full.

The Nazi conception of "German or racially kin blood" has become a basic element of German law and is fully accepted by Germans generally. We need only mention the law on the defense of German blood and the German race, issued on September 15th, 1939. Beside the conception of racial equality and racial affinity, further factors affecting the position of foreign workers in the Reich are the political, cultural and economic ties linking the Reich and her "vital space" with other states and nations.

In view of these factors, German decrees governing labor conditions is not identical for all foreign workers, but differs for various national groups. Certain of these decrees are exceptional not only in relation to the prescriptions governing the conditions of German workers, but even in relation to the basic regulations issued to cover foreign workers generally. These exceptional standards relate to Poles, Russians and prisoners of war employed in civilian labor, and of course to Jews. Each of these categories is governed by separate prescriptions, which are in consonance with the status assigned to each group in racial and political regards. Consequently, foreign workers in the Reich can be classified into the following groups giving the most oppressed group first: (1) Russians, (2) Poles, (3) prisoners of war, (4) all other foreigners.

The last category covers all non-German workers who are not affected by special prescriptions arising from their being racially alien or politically hostile. The few Jews who still possess German State citizenship, but who in any case are reckoned as non-German workers, are classified as "racially alien." On the other hand, "political hostility" is a general conception covering Poles, Russians and prisoners of war.

All foreign workers falling within the fourth category are in principle treated as equal with German workers. Deviations one way or another from the prescriptions for German workers do not greatly affect the principle of

equality, which provides that foreign workers are to enjoy the same conditions of labor and payment as the corresponding classes of German workers.

Poles working in the Reich and in the illegally "incorporated" Polish provinces receive exceptional treatment, on the principle that there can be no relations between them and Germans. The German nation has been taught to believe that they must be hostile to the Poles even when the latter are living and working in the Reich. This attitude is reflected in special prescriptions aimed at making as clear-cut a division as possible between Germans and Poles, any violation of which involves severe punishment. To achieve this clear-cut demarcation certain regulations strictly define who is to be regarded as a Pole.

In addition, Poles are obliged to indicate their nationality by outward and visible signs. The special distinguishing badges which every Pole is compelled to wear make it possible for "every German to recognize whom he is dealing with and to adjust his conduct accordingly." So the Germans adopt the attitude that there is no place for Poles in the German social legislation.

"For it would be an offence against common sense if Poles were to be granted all the social benefits that the National-Socialist State, conscious of its social obligations, has provided for German workers."

One further aspect of the German viewpoint on the matter is of capital importance: It is summed up in the statement that "it would be contrary to (Germany's) national aims if Poles were to be treated on the same social plane as members of the German nation."

Poles working in Germany are subject to the general police regulations binding on all foreigners. The obligation to wear a special distinguishing badge is in the nature of an exceptional regulation, and applies only to Poles. The distinguishing badge must be permanently fixed in a conspicuous place on the breast, on the right-hand side of each article of clothing. The badge is five centimetres square and consists of the letter "P" in violet on a yellow background. The obligation to wear this badge applies to Poles within the area of the Reich.

It applies to all Poles who became employed in the Reich after September 1st, 1939, irrespective of what part of Poland they came from.

WOMEN OF POLAND: SOLDIERS OF LIBERTY

by HALINA KORSAK

THE road trod by Polish womanhood throughout the turbulent history of the Polish nation has been long and difficult. In the course of her thousand-year-long evolution the Polish woman had matured from a silent submissive wife and mother into an enlightened citizen of her country, whose progressive views destroyed none of her feminine charm. The legendary medieval figure of Grazyna, who donned her husband's armor to lead an army into the field against the German Knights of the Cross, is a symbol of all Polish women, who in moments of starkest national tragedy could ever be depended upon to take an active part in the fight for the freedom of their country and their individual liberty.

Because Poland's geographic position exposed her to constant aggression from near and far, Polish women early found themselves shouldering heavy responsibilities. When the need for national defense called all able bodied men to distant battlefields, the women who remained behind not only had to keep the home fires burning, but had to take over the entire burden of managing farmsteads and workshops, and in many cases, had to furnish the means for continuing the fight.

History has recorded the unforgettable example of Regina Zolkiewska, wife of the oft-time victor over invading Russians, Turks and Tartars, conqueror of Moscow and outstanding Polish statesman of the stormy days that marked the turn of the 17th century. During her husband's long absence, Regina Zolkiewska administered the huge family estates and melted down her silver to send much needed



Women defenders of Lwow (1919)

contributions to the national treasury. Nor has history forgotten the more modest Anna Chrzanowska, wife of the Mayor of Tremblowla in Polish Podole, who, when the Tartars overran Poland and besieged Tremblowla in 1675, inspired the populace and garrison to such fiery resistance by her desperate heroism that though outnumbered, they repulsed the barbaric hordes from the walls of the town.

These heroines of old Poland became beacon stars to the endless chain of women who, when Poland lost her existence as an independent state, swelled the ranks of the self-sacrificing fighters for freedom.

For 123 years Poland, partitioned by three rapacious neighbors, continued to fight for her life. The underground movement of protest and battle gathered into an open and bloody explosion once in every generation—the Kosciuszko Insurrection of 1794, the Insurrections of 1830, 1863, 1905 are blood-stained mileposts in this ceaseless struggle. And in the chronicles of those unhappy years the names of women recur with greater and greater frequency: The girl-heroine Emilia Plater, captain of the infantry during the Insurrection of 1830; Marja Raszanowicz, Lieutenant Marja Przeszynska, and Wilhelmina Kasprowicz—all fell on the field of battle; and during the rising of 1863, Henryka Pustowojt, adjutant to Gen. Langiewicz, and Zofja Dobronoki. They and that legion of nameless emissaries of the secret National Government of 1863, messengers carrying secret orders, volunteer nurses, looking for the wounded in the forests at night and keeping them in their homes at the risk of their life, created the type of Polish women patriots portrayed by Grottger in his

well-known sketches. How many delicate creatures, clad in tulles and lace ruffles followed their dear ones into voluntary exile, permanently forsaking frills and luxuries. And how many comely peasant women left their households and colorful gardens to accompany their husbands into the snows of Siberia, never to return.

Untold numbers of women experienced the bitterness of exile and the despair of prison bars for the crime of teaching their children the forbidden Polish language. For, in underground teaching, it was Polish women who took upon their untiring shoulders the precious task of instilling pride of country into the young. Polish women writers like Klementyna Tanska Hofman and Narcyza Zmichowska inspired many an older volunteer or Polish girl student to leave the city for out of the way villages, there to give instruction to the peasants in the face of cruel persecution by the Russian authorities.

Out of their limitless toil stemmed the activity of the secret society *Oswiata*, that toward the end of the 19th century waged an unyielding battle against the denationalization of the Polish peasants. During the first World War, these same female forces organized into the then legal *Polska Macierz Szkolna*, laid the foundation of normal Polish education, continuing their activity in independent Poland but with special emphasis on the support of cultural life, the organization of libraries and reading rooms, adult education, etc.

Special homage is due to the heroism and sacrifice of women in the militant organization of 1905, the messengers from the Legions of 1914 and the *P.O.W.*, the Polish Military Organization active during the Great War and later in 1918-1920.

These women whose duty it was to carry forbidden "tissue paper" literature and arms, displayed amazing courage and sang froid. It was a woman, Janina Krahelska, later labor inspector, who in 1905 threw a bomb at General Skalon, the Russian governor of Warsaw and cruel oppressor of the Poles. When the need arose, Polish women did not hesitate to fight with arms. During the battles for Lwow, women in soldiers' dress stormed machine-gun nests. Many fell at their military posts during the Polish-Russian war of 1920 and the roll of honor of those who died a martyr's death in the dungeons of the Cheka, is long indeed.

In 1920 Aleksandra Zagorska organized the *Volunteer Legion of Women* numbering three thousand armed, uniformed volunteers. The quality of their participation in the life and death struggle for existence of recently reborn Poland is attested by the list of high military awards of the *Virtuti Militari* and the Cross of Valor that adorned the gray uniforms of many of them. The war, fought for two years, while Europe and the Great Powers were already enjoying the benefits of peace, left behind a forest of other, simple wooden crosses on the graves of women-soldiers and Red Cross sisters. During the tragic days of this war, Polish women gave unstintingly of their time and energy to help the wounded and care for the typhoid-stricken soldiers. To cope with the emergency the *Polish Red Cross* stepped in. Its staff of nurses, under the leadership of Marja Tarnowska, set to work, and the training of thousands of new nurses began. The Polish Red Cross expanded rapidly after the war. In less than two decades, it numbered more than a million members and more than nine thousand chapters all over Poland. Women formed a very high and active percentage of this organization. The care of soldiers that was so important a part of modern Polish life was rooted in the Great War. In 1914, Zofja Moraczewska founded the *League for Women*, to give material and moral aid to Polish



Hoisting the flag in a Women's Auxiliary Service Camp (1937)

soldiers and their families. The *Polish Women's Circle*, organized by Konstancja Lubienska in 1917, set up in independent Poland many inns and canteens for the armed forces.

In 1918, Helena Paderewska, wife of Ignace Paderewski, organized the *Polish White Cross*, which carried on educational and cultural work among the soldiers, and was at the same time a clearing and coordinating center for many soldier-aid organizations. By 1938 Poland had 599 chapters of the Polish White Cross.

Because Polish women were aware of the danger of aggression that always hovered over their country, they needed no urging to join military or semi-military associations.

Even as children they joined the scout movement, which had branches in every Polish city and town and which through the schools was spreading to more and more villages. Girls formed about 36% of the entire membership. They gave proof of a sense of responsibility, ambition and enthusiasm in their scout work and a real aptitude for various types of social work.

Older girls in secondary schools and lyceums were required to belong to a military preparedness organization, where they received drill practice and instruction in shooting.

In the summer months there flocked to training camps for women not only lyceum students but volunteers from all walks of life—young workers from socialist youth groups, members of rural youth organizations, members of sharpshooting clubs, members of Catholic youth societies. These camps were organized by the *State Bureau of Physical In-*

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U.S. General Hayes visits the White Cross Hospital at Warsaw founded by Mme. Helena Paderewska (1920)

"LAMENTATIONS"—BY JAN KOCHANOWSKI

XIIIth LAMENT

Would thou hadst ne'er been born—or being born
Hadst left me not, sweet infant! thus forlorn;
I have paid lasting woe for fleeting bliss—
A dark farewell, a speechless pang like this;
Thou wert the brightest, fairest dream of sleep;
And as the miser cherishes his heap
Of gold, I held thee; soon 'twas fled, and nought
Left but the dreary vacancies of thought,
That once was blessedness. And thou art fled.
Whose fairy vision floated in my head
And play'd around my heart. And thou art gone,
Gone with my joys; and I am left alone;
Half of my soul took flight with thee, the rest
Clings to thy broken shadow in my breast.
Come raise her tombstone, sculptor. Let there be
This simple offer to her memory.
"Her father's love—his Ursula lies here,
His love, alas! his tears, his misery.
Thine was a barbarous mandate, death! The tear
I drop for her, she should have shed for me."

TRANSLATED BY PAUL SOBOLESKI



BY Z. STRYJENKA

Our house though full is desolate and lone
Since thy gay spirit and its smiles are gone!

IXth LAMENT

My gentle child! and art thou vanished? Thou
Hast left a dreary blank of sadness now;
Our house though full is desolate and lone
Since thy gay spirit and its smiles are gone!
We heard thy tongue's sweet prattle, and thy song
Echoed in every corner all day long.
Thy mother never grieved, and anxious care
Ne'er rack'd thy father's thoughts while thou wert there;
Now hers—now mine—thy childish, fond caress—
The overflow of youth and tenderness.
But all is vacant now, all dull and dead;
All peace, and hope, and laughing joy are fled;
Our home possess'd by ever present grief,
And the tired spirit vainly seeks relief.

TRANSLATED BY PAUL SOBOLESKI



BY Z. STRYJENKA

Thou wert the brightest, fairest dream of sleep.

Jan Kochanowski (1530-1584) was the finest poet of Poland's Golden Age.

Having learned at the University of Cracow of the new humanism that was then sweeping Europe, he set out for Italy, home of the Renaissance. His studies at Padua and his subsequent trip to Paris where he met the great French poet, Ronsard, doubtless left their mark on the young man who was destined to become the "Prince of Polish Poets." Son of a country gentleman, he followed in his father's footsteps and gave up his position as secretary to the Polish King to lead a life of scholarly retirement at his country estate "Black Wood."

A prolific writer who originated his own poetic form, language and style, Kochanowski is especially famous for his superlative paraphrase of the Psalms, his classic verse drama, "The Dismissal of the Grecian Envoys," and his exquisite "Laments."

The "Laments," published in 1580, are a sequence of 19 plaints written on the death of his three-year-old daughter, Orszula. The grief-stricken father prefaced them with this dedication: "Written with tears by Jan Kochanowski, the unfortunate father, for his darling little girl, Orszula Kochanowska, a rare child full of charm and mirth, who, having shown great promise of all feminine virtues and qualities, suddenly and untowardly died in her young age, bringing great and grievous sorrow to her parents. Thou art departed, O my Orszula!"



BY Z. STRYJENKA

... Whose fairy vision floated in my head
And play'd around my heart.



BY Z. STRYJENKA

... And help me mourn my darling,
sweet and chaste.

Ist LAMENT

O griefs of Heraclitus, come ye all,
Ye tender tears Simonides let fall,
All earthly tribulation and all sighing,
All hands in sorrow wrung above the dying,
All, all, beneath my stricken roof make haste
And help me mourn my darling, sweet and chaste,
From whom ungodly Death has sunder'd me
And ended all my comfort suddenly!
Thus might a serpent find a hidden nest
And feed his greedy throat and maw unblest
On hapless baby nightingales, the while
Their frantic mother chirps and seeks the vile
Intruder to drive off, but feels his breath
And almost shares herself their wretched death.
Weeping is profitless, my friends explain.
What, by the living God, is not in vain?
All things are vain; no blessing lacks its thorn;
And mortals into mockery are born!
I know not which is better: open grief,
Or Stoic self-restraint that spurns relief.

TRANSLATED BY WATSON KIRKCONNELL

HOUSING IN PRE-WAR POLAND

by ROMAN OLTYSKI

WORKMEN'S HOUSES

Looking at a picture of workmen's houses in pre-war Warsaw, I realize that the world is progressing after all. Its march may be slow and halting, but move on it does.



APARTMENT HOUSE
Architect H. Paradistal

The flats in the Warsaw Housing Co-operative were small and modest. The architect compensated the tenants with many public rooms. A mother could get on with her work or go shopping while the baby was safe in the nursery. When it grew up the child did not have to cross streets or ride in trams to go to school. There were kindergartens and a primary school on the spot. There was even one corresponding to the lowest form of high school. After their day's work the tenants could get together in the

lounge, the reading room, the library or the meeting room. The Co-operative had its own shops and a laundry—run on a commercial basis. It was a self-contained little world of equal, friendly people, eager to help each other with their

problems, sharing their joys like good neighbors. It was not very easy to get in. Only people earning their own living were accepted, and references had to be good. Priority was given to those with families and who were badly housed, for they need a change more than the others.

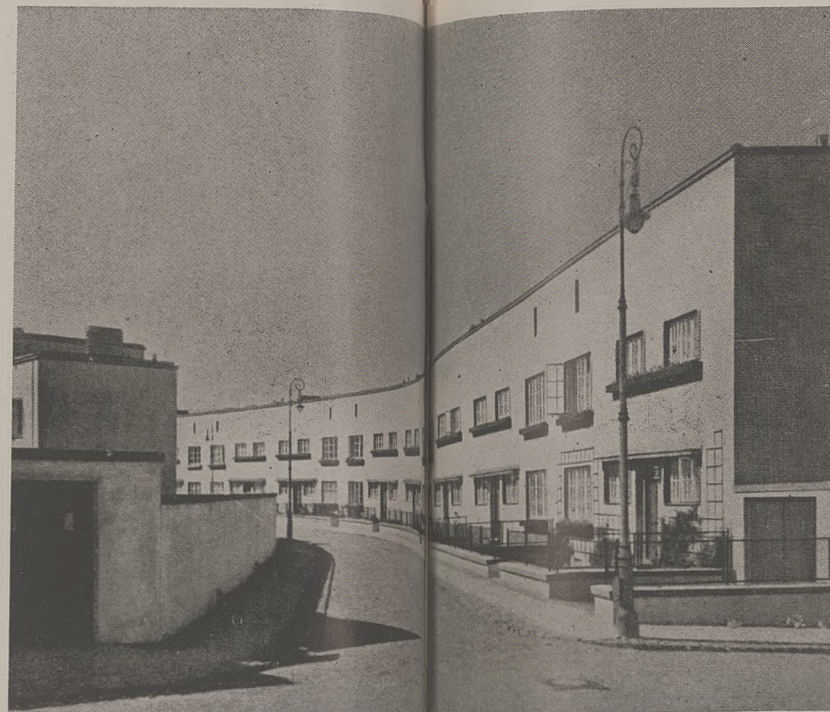
Now let us look back.

In the nineteenth century all over Europe the rapid progress of industry brought masses of people to the towns. They were housed in closely built, badly ventilated and inadequately lit tenements. Building space was obtained by cutting down suburban forests, filling in ponds and streams. Heaps of cinders and refuse grew up on the outskirts of towns, while railway lines cut across the centers of cities, trailing behind them goods stations, yards and ware-

houses. Factories nestling among houses cheerfully puffed smoke into their windows. On the Continent of Europe the small individual houses vanished in panic, or withdrew to the more distant suburbs. In Great Britain they held their own and things were much better, but even there in slum quarters children played on tram lines.

Polish towns were not free from such warts and blemishes. But they also bore the marks of a century and more of wilful neglect by foreign occupants. In some cases streets had to be paved, sewers and water pipes laid down for the first time. In the meantime people continued flocking to the towns, for there was not enough land to employ all the agricultural labor available (in spite of the agrarian reform law of 1924, which limited the size of farms to a maximum of 300 acres). Before the first world war Polish peasants sought work in the United States, but after 1918 visas were difficult to get, and very few people could emigrate. In the towns, old residents and newcomers alike needed employment, education, medical assistance and recreation. First of all they required houses, which they could not afford to build for themselves. After years of war and monetary inflation few people had sufficient money to build a house of their own. They had to be assisted out of public funds. The Government, acting through the intermediary of the Bank of National Economy, financed building co-operatives, and all new houses were exempted from taxation for the first fifteen years.

Thus employees of large firms or government



BLOCK OF FAMILY HOUSES
Architect Toloczko

men earning under twelve dollars a week. The borough councils helped by offering free building sites.

The Society for Housing Reform, aiming at the improvement of the working class conditions of life, gave practical advice to builders, offered suggestions to the authorities, published its own periodical, and maintained contact with similar societies in other countries.

The Military Billeting Fund built houses for officers, N.C.O.s and their families. These houses provided the population of many small towns with examples of modern, inexpensive and comfortable accommodations.

Later, every important firm began building houses for its employees. In 1938 whole settlements and even new towns were erected around the new factories of the Central Industrial Region, in the midst of forests.

APARTMENT HOUSES

The great French architect, Le Corbusier, saw the city of the future as tall, widely spaced blocks of flats, built on pillars, with plenty of parks and greens, intersected at various levels by motor roads. An Utopia—perhaps, but also a great and wise vision.

The only way to concentrate a large population near its place of employment is to build tall houses. The old streets, with closely-built smaller houses, are unsatisfactory. There must be plenty of room for traffic between the houses, while living quarters need air and sunshine.

In Warsaw the houses were adorned by a pattern of bricks or a facing of stone, while the size and shape of the windows

departments formed co-operative societies and built their own settlements, either in the form of large blocks of flats or streets of detached houses.

Working people had to be housed first, for Article 8 of the Polish Constitution states that: "Labor is the basis of the power and growth of the Republic."

The Social Insurance Institutions had considerable funds, some of which were invested in building houses for the insured.

But this was not enough, for hundreds of thousands of new rooms were needed every year. In 1934 the Bank of National Economy, the State Forests, the Labor Fund and the Social Insurance Institutions founded a company called "The Society for Workers' Housing." Its object was the construction of houses for work-

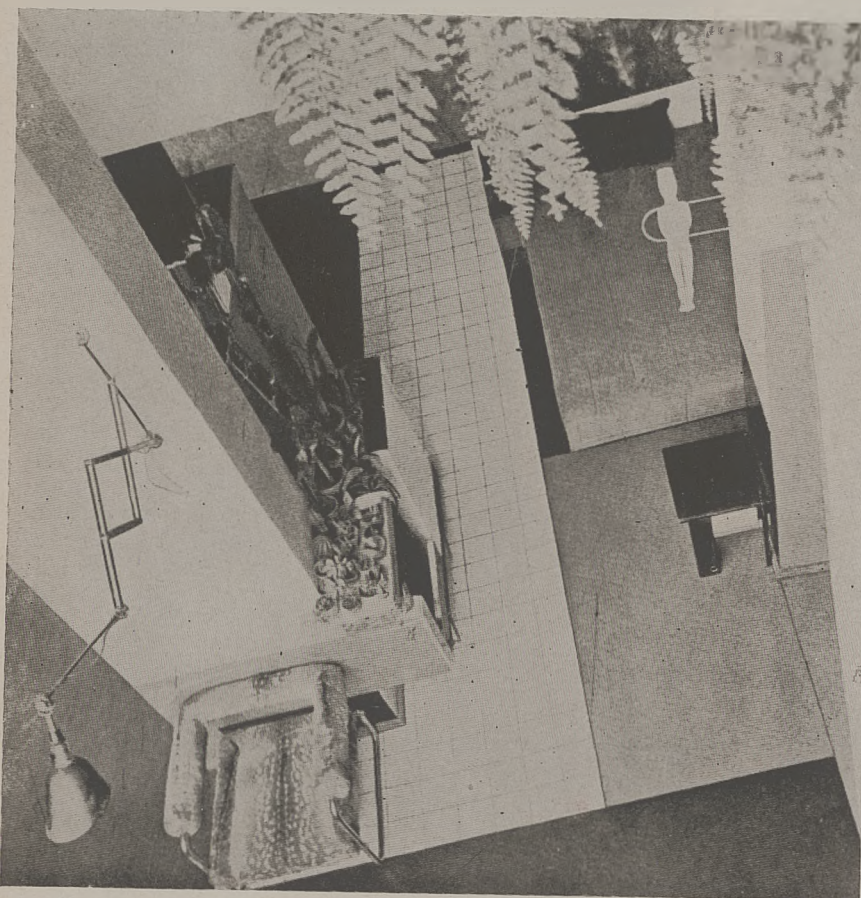


MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING
Architect Z. Karpinski

were dictated by the structural qualities of the material. If a house of steel or concrete was built in a narrow street, it (Please turn to page 10)



OFFICE WORKERS' HOUSING PROJECT
Architect J. Stefanowicz



CROSS-SECTION OF ONE-FAMILY HOUSE
Architects B. Lachert and J. Szanajca

(Continued from page 9)

was erected on pillars. The wide open space between them enlivened the monotony of closed walls, displaying the small gardens with ponds and fountains at the back of the house. Behind a glass door there was a hall of light stone, with neat little letter boxes for each flat. The mosaic in the stone floor led to the lift, from which one stepped straight into the different flats, without wandering along sinuous and dark corridors. Most of the flats were four-roomed: two bedrooms, a dining-room and a living-room, connected by a wide sliding door. The kitchen, with an electric or gas stove, was large and airy. There the Polish housewife cooked a copious midday meal, mostly of fresh ingredients, without using any canned goods or sauces. She was helped by the maid, who had her own small room behind the kitchen.

Abolition of excessive noise, the cleanliness of the streets and the flowers adorning the houses were due to Stefan Starzynski, Mayor of Warsaw. A man of vision and imagination, he was capable of putting his bold plans into practice. He showed what hard work and sound planning can do in five years to improve a city of more than a million inhabitants. He loved Warsaw. He managed to arouse something more than interest in or sympathy for his schemes: the enthusiasm of wide masses of the population. He began with what he considered most important: the construction of twenty-eight big new schools, the ordering and cleaning up of the suburbs and the piercing of new thoroughfares. The scope of his work grew wider year by year. New hospitals, playing fields and sports grounds were built, the Vistula was given an embankment and workmen's quarters were improved and modernized. Then came the Tourist Hostel, the National Museum, the reconstruction of ancient monuments and the unearthing of the old Gothic city walls. Finally town planning on a



ONE-FAMILY COUNTRY HOME
Architects M. Goldberg and H. Rutkowski

grand scale, reaching far into the future.

September, 1939. The man who took interest in the looks of every new house, who loved every new flower bed in the squares of Warsaw, that man preferred ruin and destruction to surrender. When his city was on fire, he led the defense with the same energy and spirit which he had given to its building. He never spared himself, working day and night, broadcasting to the people with a voice hoarse with fatigue, keeping up public spirit and continuing the defense as long as was humanly possible, regardless of cost.

FAMILY HOUSES

In 1929, I went to England with a party of undergraduates, and was greatly impressed by the thousands of neat little houses with their own gardens. At the time, Polish architects were building huge blocks of flats, which they believed the best form of accommodation. They forgot what it means to a family to have a house and a few square yards of land of their own. There were some villas in

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ONE-FAMILY SUBURBAN DWELLING
Architect R. Gutt

A POLISH OFFICER'S ESCAPE THROUGH BELGIUM

The following story was written by a Polish officer who had twice in two years unsuccessfully attempted to escape from a German prison camp. His third attempt was successful, and he managed to cross the frontier into Belgium. Here he was aided by a number of people and eventually succeeded in reaching England.

NOW that I am in England, the "Promised Land" of all soldiers who are eager to take up arms once more against the oppressors of 14 nations, I want to express my gratitude to the Belgians in occupied territory who showed me so much kindness while I was in their country. Their valuable assistance enabled me to realize my most ardent wish—to regain my liberty and rejoin the Polish colors.

My first contact with these honest folk was before my arrival in Belgium. I had been walking the whole of one night, keeping to the fields and meadows so as to avoid the German patrols who frequented the main roads. Eventually I found myself in a different type of countryside from that I had left behind me, and realized that I was getting near the Belgian frontier. It was beginning to get light. Exhausted and ravenously hungry, I was looking about, trying to get my bearings, when I saw an old workman coming my way.

He probably saw at a glance that I was an escapee, for he said: "If you are running away from Germany, young man, hurry up into the fields and hide yourself, because you are right on the frontier and in the way of the German patrols. They may catch you at any moment." My heart sank at the prospect of having to spend another day in damp clothes and without food, but there was no help for it; I went into the fields again and climbed a tree to hide.

From my perch I could see the roof of a small farm. At noon I could hold out no longer. I went to the house and knocked at the door. It was opened by an old woman, her husband at her heels. I had begun to explain that I could not continue my journey with my clothes in ribbons when I suddenly realized that I was talking to Belgians. I told them that I was a Polish officer-cadet and had managed to escape from Germany after 25 months of captivity. They pulled me inside, after first looking around, for German patrols infested the roads, searching for fugitives. In letting me in, they risked their lives, for in such cases the Germans do not argue the point.

These kind people took me up to the attic and brought me some food, and afterwards I slept until the evening. About 9 o'clock the son of my hosts—a Flemish soldier who had spent some months in captivity in Germany—woke me up, put a little food into my hands and brought me my clothes, which had been cleaned and mended. He said that he would take me across the frontier himself. This was a great piece of luck. Two hours later I was in Belgium, and the crucial stage of my adventurous journey was over. I remembered that when I made my second unsuccessful attempt to escape,

a French officer-cadet had been recaptured on this very frontier.

I spent two months in Belgium waiting for a chance to get away. During this time, I had to change my lodging four times. I learned to know and appreciate the Belgian people. Their courage and resourcefulness is one of my best memories. In all the Belgian homes where I stayed they went to great trouble to make me feel at home; I spent my days in an armchair, listening to the radio or perhaps reading. Occasionally in the evening a close friend would come in to visit and we all would drink a glass of wine. Once, dressed inconspicuously, I even went to a movie.

I shall always remember one evening when the young widow of an officer killed in this war revived my memories of happy days with my family in Poland by playing the music of Chopin. I appreciated this charming action, and I renew my thanks to this lady for her kind thought.

I should also like to pay special tribute to one workman's wife, mother of half a dozen children. This woman used to

forego her sleep three nights a week, waiting up for her husband who was out looking for prisoners-of-war in need of help on the other side of the frontier. All the escapees he found, most of them with their feet bleeding, were cared for by her. While they slept she spent the rest of the night cleaning their clothes and preparing a meal for them and some food for the road. In the morning she had to wake the children, get them off to school and then do her housework. She did all this without any fuss or comment, as though it were quite natural and never seemed to tire. I can only

think of this woman with her gentle manner and kindness of heart, as a heroine.

I spent three weeks in this home, my departure being delayed from day to day by innumerable difficulties. During this time 32 prisoners were received and passed on. When my turn came to leave, my benefactors gave me a little notebook in which was written: "In remembrance of a very short visit and much-regretted departure, with most earnest prayers for your return, from us all.—Mother." She was a mother indeed. My own mother could not have done more for me.

We Poles are very sensitive to kind treatment at such times, and I had had no home comforts since September 1939.

That is why I wanted to put on record my gratitude for everything these people did for me and other escaped prisoners. There are many like them. One house which gave me shelter had received nearly 400 escaped prisoners since the war began.

It only remains for me to express the hope that the quiet sacrifice and courage of all my friends who remain in Belgium, hunted and persecuted by the Germans, will soon bring their reward—the freedom and independence of their country which they love so well.



"My own mother could not have done more for me . . ."

THEY SAVED THE CREW OF A BRITISH TANKER

*The ship strains at the noose, sulks like a girl,
Rolls, plunges in the foamy swirl,
Cuts the clouds with her brow, seizes the wings of the wind...*

I ARRIVED at the port of X., shortly after some Polish ships had come in laden with goods. Officer S. joined up on the W-s last August, the moment he passed his exams at the Polish Naval Course for Second Mates, at Southampton University College.

It was at the Naval Course I met him for the first time. Slowly and reticently he began to paint me a picture of the drama, which is only too frequent on the seas today.

"We were sailing from the U.S.A. to England with a cargo of food and arms. The night of mid-September found us somewhere in the North Atlantic, the sea was fairly quiet; the temperature about 14°. We were sailing 60 strong in a formation of 12 equal rows. There was another Polish ship in the convoy, the S.S. W-g, and a number of allied ships, but the greater part were English. We were in the 10th row and were in good spirits. That night we had moonlight and the Aurora Borealis—a beautiful phenomenon. It passed across the sky in layers of colored veils, which vanished or re-appeared suddenly."

"Is it a good or a bad sign?" I put in.

"You are right, my colleagues are superstitious and took it for an omen. For my part, I shrugged my shoulders, and after the watch I went to my bunk to sleep. I don't believe in astrology.

"I lay in my berth and went to sleep, but not for long, unfortunately. The high-pitched whistling sound of the sirens and the detonation of depth-charges woke me up. I jumped out of my bunk and jumped into my waistcoat and uniform. I flashed my torch on to my wrist watch—it was 9 p.m.



TAKING ON GIFTS FOR "JERRY"

I had hardly slept an hour. In half a minute, with the help of my torch, I reached the bridge to report for orders. The officers were already at their stations and the men on the look-out.

"There's a U-boat attack!"—the Master yelled in my ear against the wind.

"I took up my position on the fore-deck. At that moment the signal rockets began to shoot up over the convoy. The sky was thick with them.

"We found that the left wing of the convoy was under fire. From that side also rang out the salvos of gunfire from our destroyer, from the corvettes and from the ships themselves, but we could not hear the detonation of the guns nor of the bursting torpedoes, which were drowned in the roar of the engines of our ship and the lashing of the waves; and the wind was also getting stronger.

"We had not yet got a clear idea of the situation. The ship they were attacking might be a mile away from us; maybe more, maybe less. We could not make out through our field-glasses what was happening or where."

"Surely the Commander of the convoy gives it out by wireless?" I asked.

"The Commodore of the convoy," corrected the young officer, "gives his orders by signal. Just as we were trying to guess what was happening, the rockets

shot out from his ship—red to the left and green to the right.

"Those are the signals for 'Emergency Turn.' So we began to steer 'evasively.' We knew not that there were several U-boats, and that they were attacking from various directions, now on the right flank and now on the left. The attacks were repeated. We changed our course several times. At any moment we could expect the next attack would be directed at us, but no one was unduly excited. And so the night passed.

"The dawn was fair and sunny. There was a moderate wind. The convoy went on as if nothing had happened the night before, except that 'in case of emergency' we were ready.

"Especially as, when we took a look round through our field-glasses, we found some of the ships were missing here and there in the convoy."

"Torpedoed?" I asked hastily.

"Probably, although it is quite possible that one or two ships stayed behind to do rescue work.

"In spite of the previous night's attacks the convoy still took up a large space in the form of a rectangle. The warships cruising alongside embraced the flock with a watchful eye.

"It reminds me of a different picture—only a landlubber's one. There's the flock of sheep, the sheep-dogs, and the shepherd—the Commodore."

"And 'sea-wolves,' you mean." "Quite. I remember, round about midday, the third mate turned up to take over the watch from the first mate; straightaway the sirens began to scream again and the depth-charges to go off."

"The 'sea wolves,' or 'sharks,' or whatever you like to call them, followed our flock the whole night, and did not even lose sight of us in daytime.

"There were several attempts at attack or reconnaissance that day, and I don't know whether it was bad luck or what; it happened every time the third mate was changing watch with the first. We said, jokingly, that if it occurred again we would throw the third mate overboard"

"I went off duty at eight o'clock, the same as the night before. I tried not to sleep, but you can't 'kid' nature, and I snoozed off.

"As it was an 'emergency period,' I slept in my clothes. Only the jacket of my uniform and my life waistcoat were lying alongside the bunk, also 'at attention,' i.e., so placed that I could jump into them both at one go. I had my electric torch under the pillow.

"Suddenly a detonation rent the air, drowned the roar of our engines and of the sea, the walls of the cabin trembled for a while, maybe it was only a few seconds, in a dream, it seemed to me. I dreamt that we had 'demagnetized' the third mate, to prevent him from attracting German torpedoes. Then, a second detonation! A new shaking and more whistling of sirens dragged me to my feet. I shot out of the cabin and fell into the arms of the wireless operator, who was rushing to wake me up.

"Detonations, rattling, whistling, the roar of the engines and of the waves, the prospect of being blown up at any moment and sinking to the bottom of the ocean the next—everything put together made me feel as if I were in the mouth of hell. Suddenly our fire ceased.

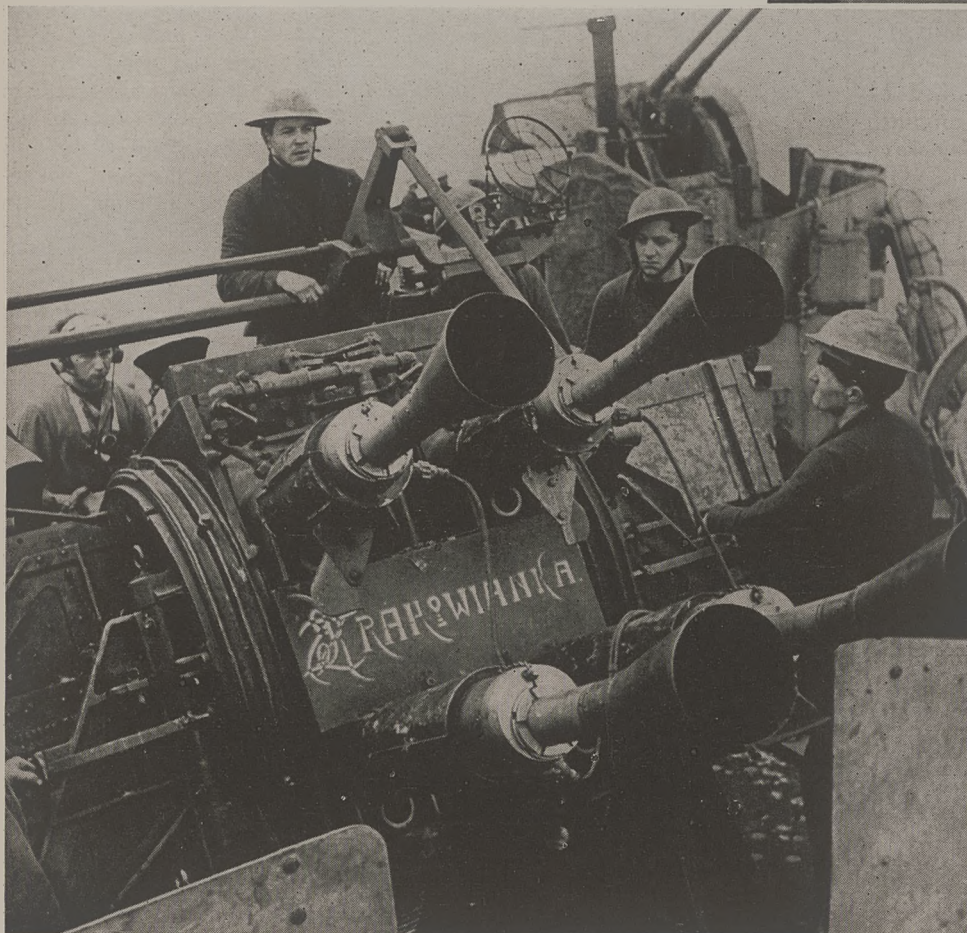
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SETTING THE COURSE



LONG-RANGE POLISH ARTILLERY



ANTI-AIRCRAFT IS READY

WOMEN OF POLAND: SOLDIERS OF LIBERTY

(Continued from page 5)

struction and Military Preparedness. Cooperating with them were local committees of Military Preparedness, financed and supported by the community.

Many volunteer fire-fighting groups boasted a corps of trained women, while the *League of Anti-Air Defense*, drew a multitude of them to its courses on national defense, first aid, liaison work, and auxiliary service during air raids and war operations.

Thanks to this preparation, thousands of Polish women during the siege of Warsaw in September 1939, extinguished incendiaries on the rooftops in the midst of raining shells and thousands of others hastened to bring relief to soldiers mortally wounded in the street fighting or suffering excruciating pain in the hospitals. Day and night while bombs

burst all around and shells screamed past, they tended the wounded and when the hospital walls crumbled, they would with the strength born of despair, carry the wounded to some other safer spot, organizing self-help stations in every sector and every home.

And when the horror of war gave way to the horror of occupation, Polish women entered upon a new phase in the history of their heart-breaking martyrdom and their soul-stirring courage. Refusing to give in to the oppressor, they continued to fight on the home front and hastened wherever they could to join their men in the armed forces abroad. Their splendid resistance in the face of unparalleled suffering has furnished additional proof that the women of Poland are fully worthy of the respect and love they have always enjoyed.

HOUSING IN PRE-WAR POLAND

(Continued from page 10)

the health resorts and some older detached houses without modern amenities in the smaller towns. In the big towns, and especially in the capital, only rich people could have a house for themselves.

Much change took place in the next ten years. The more distant suburbs, where land was cheaper, developed and were provided with communications. The State assisted people to build houses. Those who could not afford a house of their own decided to sublet some of the rooms. Friends built semi-detached twin houses and even people of moderate means could become owners of a small house, which gave them many joys.

The house was usually built close to the street, to save as much space as possible for the garden at the back. The ground floor was a few feet above ground level; the basement contained coal storage, the central heating boiler, a washroom and garage. Entering, one was amazed to find so much room in an apparently small house. The hall, living room and dining room were really one—separated only by a cur-

tain, some steps or a railing and pillar. Modern design and the traditional Polish hospitality were combined to solve the problem of entertaining a party of fifty in a small house. When the wide glass door at the back was opened, the terrace was just an extension of the room, and the garden with its flowers seemed to be within the house. The terrace could be used for luncheon, or after dinner coffee, especially when the earth in the garden was still soft after the winter or a heavy rain, although the air was warm and pleasant. On the first floor there was a large balcony from which one could look at the stars before going to sleep, or sunbathe in the morning.

The Polish summer is long and hot—the sea and mountains are far from the capital.

In recent years, when the roads were improved and motor cars became more numerous, small brick bungalows began to rise in quiet spots on the Vistula or in the forests. They were designed simply, without heating arrangements. There was just one large living room, a kitchen, bathroom and some recesses for divans. It was all that one needed for a pleasant weekend after six strenuous days in a hot city.

THEY SAVED THE CREW OF A BRITISH TANKER

(Continued from page 13)

"All this lasted only a minute. The Commodore's order, repeated by our Captain, was short: 'POWERFUL U-BOAT ATTACK FROM SEVERAL POINTS SIMULTANEOUSLY!'

"Thanks be to Thee, Almighty God! I said to my colleague, that even here we . . . and I was interrupted by a column of greenish-yellow flame which shot up suddenly on the left of the convoy. Almost at the same moment we heard a hollow detonation.

"It's the tanker 'Bull. . . .' She's torpedoed? The cargo of aeroplane motor spirit is on fire!

"We get quite close up to the fatal tanker. We have to go carefully, as in the blinding glare we lose sight of the men. We look for them now down there in the whirl of waters, with strained gaze.

"We were supposed to take the whole crew on board, but it was easier said than done. Our boat had accommodation and supplies for a crew of 35; and here we had already 47 more who were, *de facto*, on our decks!

"We had to share out our bedding, bunks, food, and first-aid supplies. The first mate was a hospital—all in one person; we sent off the cook and two men to produce a meal, also tea and rum. We took the tanker's empty lifeboat in tow at our stern.

"The survivors informed us that their crew amounted to 61 persons, so there were 14 still missing. Thus, the captain, the first mate, and 12 men were still on board.

"While we were pulling the torpedoed men up the storm-trap, in continual fear of a fresh attack, the engines of a plane suddenly roared overhead. It circled round.

"We're cooked, I thought, but the wireless operator reassured us. It was an English plane from Iceland.

"That's all very well, I thought, provided they don't light us up. And at that very moment—damnation—flop! A parachute flare; and then another one, and another.

"In the light of the flares we saw the tanker's second lifeboat and a raft with some people on board, they were drifting under pressure of the wind towards the hull of the tanker; it was plain that they were making a terrific effort to get away from her, but they could not manage it.

"The Captain then gave orders to lower our motorboats. We took off the men, both from the lifeboat and from the raft. There were ten of them altogether, among them the Captain of the tanker, seriously wounded, and a Chinese sailor who was badly burned.

"It turned out that four members of the crew had perished—the first mate and three Chinese.

"From that fatal night, ten more days of difficult but uneventful passage to England, except that the tanker's lifeboat which we were towing took in water while rolling and broke loose."

The cover shows Polish sailors with the mascots of their warships.

"The Spirit of Copernicus Stalks Unconquerable"

POLES EXECUTE "COOPERATOR" WHO AIDED NAZI

The underground Polish radio station "SWIT" reports that the armed Polish organizations at Cracow had carried out the death sentence passed against an Ukrainian trolley conductor by name of Michael Klimonchuk. The Poles charged him with collecting information for the German authorities about Poles who succeeded in avoiding the total mobilization order issued by the Germans. The same organization also executed the death sentence on Karol Bielicki, a policeman, co-operating with the Germans.

Czeslaw Ancerewicz, a journalist, employed on the staff of the "Goniec Wilenski," a paper serving the interests of the German occupants, was sentenced to death by the Directorate of Civilian Resistance, and executed in Wilno by armed Poles.

In giving this information the "SWIT" announces that the Directorate of Civilian Resistance was authorized by the Polish Government in London to conduct trials on behalf of the Polish Republic for the purpose of bringing to justice not only Germans for crimes committed but also Polish citizens who even in the slightest degree cooperate with the occupants along forbidden lines. The "SWIT" added that cases like the Bielicki case practically never occur because "There is no room in Poland for Quislings."

GEN. SIKORSKI SEES POLISH PARATROOPS

General Sikorski recently visited a Polish parachute unit. The commanding officer acquainted General Sikorski with the state of the training and of the organization of these units which are rapidly approaching the final stage of readiness for action. These units constitute the elite of Polish forces, and are composed of soldiers whose physical technical training is very high and will enable them to give of their best in the difficult fighting ahead.

The Polish parachute commander also reports to the Commander-in-Chief that the general officers commanding British Airborne troops, who have shown great friendship for and interest in the Polish units ever since the latter were first organized, personally handed him a gift from the British air-borne divisions as a token of appreciation for the training and organization work performed in common. General Sikorski approved acceptance of the gift and its use on special ceremonial occasions. It should be noted that the Polish parachute units were formed under extremely difficult conditions.

On Poland's National Day. The third of May, they paraded in a Scottish town where a section of them is stationed and their soldierly bearing, their appearance and exemplary discipline aroused general admiration among the Scots and pride among the other Polish units.

AUSTRALIA TO ACT FOR POLES IN SOVIET-RUSSIA

The Australian Government will represent Polish interests in the USSR. In this connection the following official statement was issued by the Polish Ministry of Information in London:

"In undertaking to represent Polish interests in the USSR and thereby render assistance to a large number of Polish citizens, a problem which is the subject of constant and profound concern to all Poles, the Australian Government's step gives eloquent expression to the spirit of allied solidarity and proves the desire to create most favorable conditions possible for the common effort of the United Nations. This action by Australia was accepted all the more gratefully by Poles because they are already united with the Australians in brotherhood of arms on all battlefronts. The Poles are filled with admiration of the war effort of Australia which in spite of the necessity of repelling the immediate threat of Japanese aggression, played such a prominent part in Africa and Europe."

Reports from Sweden say that the German administration in the Western provinces of Poland illegally incorporated in the Reich, has received orders from Berlin to destroy all documents and records bearing on the treatment of the Polish population. It is said that this order is already in course of execution, and it forecasts events of great importance.

In connection with the Copernican Quadricentennial, The New York Times published the following editorial under the caption "SYMBOLIC COPERNICUS"

Americans are more given to commemorating the birthdays than the deathdays of their national heroes. But in honoring the memory of Copernicus on the 400th anniversary of his death, in nation-wide ceremonies arranged by the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Poles in this country not only observe an established European custom but remind us that their temporarily eclipsed nation has a claim on our sympathy both as a political entity and as a radiant center of culture. For no figure symbolizes with such poetic perfection as that of Copernicus the achievements and sufferings of the Polish people.

To the world Copernicus is the mathematician whose dethroning of the earth as the center of the solar system had the effect of a mental explosion; the physician who healed the poor; the economist who anticipated Gresham in stating the law that bad money always drives out good; the canon and the statesman. To Poles he is all these and much more. Through the sheer force of historic events he is an incarnation of themselves and their aspirations. No doubt he was one of those whom Dr. Meyer of the Gestapo had in mind when he told the faculty of the University of Krakow on Nov. 6, 1939, that "because you tried to open the university without our knowledge and consent, because you carried your laboratory work and conducted examinations without our approval, and, finally, because this university of yours is a citadel of what you call Polish culture, you are under arrest." For this was the university in which Copernicus had studied, the university in which his rebellious tradition had been cherished. No doubt Dr. Meyer also knew that it was Copernicus, the churchman and astronomer, who commanded the troops of beleaguered Olsztyn in resisting—whom? None other than the Order of Teutonic Knights headed by a Hohenzollern. The historic parallel between the Poland of Copernicus and the Poland of today seems more than fortuitous. The same enemy then, the same enemy now; the same effort to stamp out a people and a culture then, the same effort now. No wonder that the Poles are making the most of their illustrious son. His spirit stalks, unconquerable. He is more than the savant who "bade the sun stand still," as the derisive Melancthon put it. He is Poland.

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S TRIBUTE TO COPERNICUS

Commemoration of the quadricentennial of the death of Copernicus naturally turns our thoughts to his native Poland, now in chains and prostrate under the evil power of Axis conquest. Poland's plight today is indeed tragic. Her oppressors are likewise the implacable foes of truth, progress, and the spirit of free inquiry to which Copernicus devoted all of the years of his active and singularly useful life.

Although free institutions are suppressed temporarily in the land of Copernicus' birth and in other once happy lands, the dawn of a happier day is assured. It is therefore highly appropriate that in the midst of all-out war and the sacrifices which it demands, we pause a moment to draw refreshment of mind and spirit by recalling the great contribution which Copernicus made to the sum of human knowledge and to the progress of mankind.

Not only must great men and great nations be allowed to attain freedom. Liberty must be made progressively available to small states, to communities, and to the

individual himself if humanity is to march forward into light and life. We must always remember that the creation and sweep of great liberalizing ideas may be the work of a single isolated individual, as it was in the case of Copernicus.

By these reverent ceremonies, therefore, the people of America honor not only a great pioneer of our civilization, they recognize thereby the undying contributions that have come from the small nations of the world. Copernicus serves to remind us that small nations have given for the common advantage of all peoples many of the great enduring concepts which have enriched the life of man. This opportunity of living with the growing and unrestricted knowledge about man and his place in the universe lays on all of us so imperious a responsibility that we should pledge ourselves in the name of all venerated great men of ideas to strive to maintain that opportunity forever.

—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF POLAND

It would be difficult to find in the chronicles of mankind even a few great men who could so justly claim the admiration and gratitude of posterity—as Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicholas Copernicus). He was one of those most rare geniuses who, through their discoveries cause a profound change in the existing trend of thought in the entire course of science which for a thousand years appeared as fixed and unalterable, and who brought about a complete change in the picture of the universe.

The transference of the central position of the terrestrial globe from its pivotal position to that of a planet in the solar system, has magnified the picture of that system, has made the world conscious of its vastness, of its miracles, of its mystery.

Kopernik could rightly expect—as he expressed himself in the original version of his preface to the work "Concerning the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" (De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium), that the science which he professed "will encourage to virtue and will fill humanity with admiration for the Creator of the Universe, who is the embodiment of all good and of all happiness."

But if we ponder the life of Mikolaj Kopernik and of his great work, the following thought, almost irresistibly comes to our minds: Great discoverers, great geniuses of science, may be born in various surroundings and under various political and cultural conditions. However, the democratic way of living, wherein the national responsibilities rest upon the nation itself and on all its members,—creates a specific type of man of wisdom and genius, one who does not live aloof from society, but is closely linked with it, sharing its cares, and, with his whole being, is devoted to its most vital needs.

The United States was and is such a democracy.

This explains why Benjamin Franklin could turn his gaze away from the sky from which he drew lightning, in order to devote the whole effort of his thought and his genius to the cause of freedom and prosperity of America.

Poland enjoyed similar conditions of intellectual liberalism and individualism in the 16th century. Thus, Kopernik, while calculating the movements of celestial bodies, could simultaneously counsel King Sigismund regarding the perfidy and rapacity of the Teutonic Knights of the Cross and create plans of reform for Poland's finances in his remarkable dissertation "Concerning the Principle of Coining Money" (De Monetæ Cudendæ Ratio).

Today, when we are waging a mortal war in defense of that democratic way of living which enabled such geniuses as Kopernik and Benjamin Franklin to mature and to serve, we find better understanding for the words of the Polish philosopher Kazimierz Brodzinski, who, one hundred and twelve years ago, in his profound lecture "On the Nationality of the Poles" at the meeting of the Warsaw Learned Society said:

—In days gone by every nation regarded itself as the aim and center of everything in the same way as the earth was regarded as the pivot of the world around which everything else revolved. Kopernik discovered the system of the physical world, while the Polish Nation—and I say this with pride—sensed the real motion of the moral world by acknowledging that every nation should be but a particle of the entity and should revolve around this entity as the planets revolve around the sun. Each nation is a necessary unity in equilibrium, and only blind egoism cannot see it—

—WLADYSLAW RACZKIEWICZ.